

Grant Road Day Care

NEWS

P R E S C H O O L C H R I S T M A S P A R T Y

STOCKING IDEAS:

- Mini travel games
- Squeenkies
- Lego Minifigures
- Mini playdough
- Stickers
- Mini card sets or puzzles
- Candy
- Flavored chap stick
- Yo-Yo or Harmonica
- Sidewalk chalk

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Christmas will soon be here! Have you started your Christmas shopping? Started untangling your Christmas lights? How about pictures for those Christmas cards? There are so many things to do to prepare. With such a busy holiday season we don't want you to forget the Grant Road Preschool Christmas party!!!

Our party will be Friday, DECEMBER 16th at 9:30a.m.! We will be celebrating with snacks, stories and songs. Our preschool students, 15 months up to the Private Kindergarten class, will be having a GIFT

EXCHANGE. The spending limit for our gift exchange is a maximum of \$5.00. Simply bring a gift for a boy if you have a son, or a gift for a girl if you have a daughter. Please wrap the gift and label if it is for a boy or girl.

If you would like to contrib-



ute, you may bring cookies or cupcakes to help us celebrate. We always encourage parent and grandparent participation. PARENTS WELCOME!!! So if you have a few free hours, we would love to have you here!

SSSSSShhhhhhhhhh!!!

We also have an extra special surprise. All of our children must have made the "Nice" list, because SANTA is coming to pay us a visit!!!! He will bring all of the children a special treat and take pictures with them too. From 9:30-10:30. Be sure and place your picture orders and bring your best smiles!

W E L C O M E

We would like to welcome all of our new children and their families to the daycare!

Brandon Corrillo, Jagger Haley, Jayden Haley and Barbera Mays.

We are so glad you chose to join our Grant Road family.

Also our new teacher Ms. Stephanie in the 2 1/2 yr. old class!!!

We are so glad you're

with us and we can't wait to get to know you all! If you have any questions or there is anything you need, please stop by the office and we will be more than happy to help!

OWL MOON

It was late one winter night,
long past my bed time,
when Pa and I went owling.

There was no wind.

The trees stood still as giant statues.

And the moon was so bright

the sky seemed to shine.

Somewhere behind us

a train whistle blew,

Long and low,

like a sad, sad song.

I could here it

Through the woolen cap

Pa had pulled down

over my ears.

A farm dog answered the train,

and then a second dog

joined in.

They sang out,

for a real long time,

Trains and dogs.

And when the voices

faded away

It was as quiet as a dream.

We walked on toward the woods,

Pa and I.

Our feet crunched

Over the crisp snow

And little gray footprints

followed us.

Pa made a long shadow,

But mine was short and round.

I had to run after him

every now and then

to keep up.

And my short, round shadow

bumped after me.

But I never called out.

If you go owling

You have to be quiet,

That's what Pa always says.

I had been waiting

To go owling with Pa

For a long, long time.

We reached the line

Of pine trees,

Black and pointy

against the sky,

And Pa put up his hand.

I stopped right where I was

and waited.

He looked up,

Searching the stars,

As if reading a map up there.

The moon made his face

into a silver mask,

Then he called:

"Whoo,Whoo, who,who, who,
whoooooo,"

The sound of a Great Horned Owl.

"Whoo, whoo, who,who,who,whoooooo."

Again he called out.

And then again.

After each call

He was silent

And for a moment we both listened.

But there was no answer.

Pa shrugged

And I shrugged.

I was not disappointed.

My brothers all said

Sometimes there's an owl

And sometimes there isn't.

We walked on.

I could feel the cold,

As if someone's icy hand

Was palm-down on my back.

And my nose

And the tops of my cheeks

Felt cold and hot

At the same time.

But I never said a word.

If you go owling

You have to be quiet

and make your own heat.

We went into the woods.

The shadows

where the blackest things

I had ever seen.



They stained the white snow.
My mouth felt furry,
For the scarf over it
Was wet and warm.
I didn't ask
What kinds of things
Hide behind black trees
In the middle of the night.
For when you go owling
You have to be brave.

Then we came to a clearing
In the middle of the woods.
The moon was high above us.
It seemed to fit
Exactly
Over the center of the clearing
And the snow below it
Was whiter than the milk
In a cereal bowl.

I sighed
and Pa held up his hand
at the sound.
I put the mittens over the scarf
over my mouth
and listened hard.

And then Pa called:
"Whoo, Whoo, who, who,
whooooooooo."
"Whoo, who whooooooooo."
I listened And I looked so hard,
My ears hurt
and my eyes got Cloudy with
the cold.

Pa raised his face to call out
again.
But before he could open his
mouth,
An echo came
threading it's way through the
trees.

"Whoo, Whoo, who, who,
whooooooooo."

Pa almost smiled.

Then he called back:

"Whoo, Whoo, who, who,
who, whooooooooo."

Just as if he

And the owl

Where talking about supper

Or about the woods

Or the moon

Or the cold.

I took my mitten

off the scarf

Off my mouth,

And I almost smiled, too.

The owls call came closer,

From high up on the trees

On the edge of the meadow.

Nothing in the meadow
moved.

All of a sudden

An owl shadow,

Part of the big tree shadow

Lifted off

And flew right over us.

We watched silently,

With heat in our mouths,
The Heat of all those words
we had not spoken.
The shadow hooted again.

Pa turned on his big flash light

And caught the owl

Just as it was landing on a
branch.

For one minute,

Three minutes,

Maybe even a hundred
minutes,

They stared at each other.

Then the owl

pumped it's great wings

And lifted off the branch

Like a shadow

Without sound.

It flew back into the forest.

"Time to go home."

Pa said to me.

I knew then I could talk.

I could even laugh out loud.

But I was a shadow as we
walked home.

When you go owling

You don't need words

Or warm

Or anything but hope.

That's what Pa says.

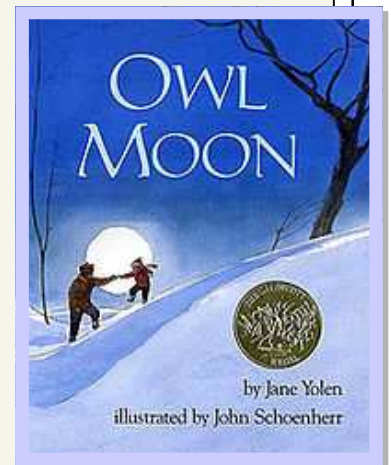
The kind of hope

That flies

On silent wings
Under a shining
Owl Moon.



*This story is
dedicated to Mrs.
Suzie Netterville.
We miss you
MeMe.*



**Written by Jane Yolen and
Illustrated by John
Schoenherr. This book won
many awards, most notably
being the Caldecott Medal
for its illustrations.**

HOLIDAY TRADITIONS

Do you have your own family traditions? Here are a few fun things you may want to try! You may find one to add to your Christmas Traditions List!

Elf on the Shelf– He's telling who's naughty or nice. You can buy your Elf and the book at Barnes & Noble or Target.

Santa's Wonderland– A LOT of Lights, petting zoo, Visit with Santa, snowflakes, hot chocolate and more! Located near college station.

Snow!!!!- Plenty of places in Houston make snow for kids to play in. Museum of Natural Science does this every year.

Tree farm– Pick and cut down your own fresh Christmas Tree!
www.oldtimechristmastree.com

Car ride & Christmas Lights– Do a little scouting to find a good neighborhood. Take the kids for a spin one night after

dinner. Don't forget to turn on the Christmas music!

Slumber party under the tree- Gather round the tree as a family, read Christmas books and sleep under your tree one evening. Just like camping...on carpet, with blankets, and heat!

Ginger bread houses or Cookie frosting party-Invite family or friends over to decorate Christmas cookies. You can pre-make gingerbread houses or sugar cookies in different holiday shapes to make the party run smooth. You provide the icing and have everyone invited bring candies to share for decorating. Tip: When building Gingerbread houses, use hot glue to bind the structure. Pipe over with icing and no one will know! (It takes a lot of frustration out of a structure that no one eats anyway!)

Christmas PJ's– Purchase and wrap new Christmas jammies for your family. Open as early gifts to wear Christmas eve.

Baking Day– Have everyone bake teacher gifts together for some holiday fun.

The Nut Cracker Ballet– The Houston Ballet performs at the Wortham Theater Center every winter.

Disney on Ice-Kids will love seeing Mickey and friends at the Reliant Stadium.

Christmas Movie Night– Pop popcorn and curl up together to watch your favorites.

The legend of the Candy Cane: While the children munch on their Christmas treats, share with them how the candy cane was invented. Many years ago, there was a candy maker who wanted to make a Christmas candy that would act as a testimony to his Christian faith. The cane is actually a "J" for Jesus, and if it's flipped with the curve at the top, it's a shepherd's staff. The white represents the virgin birth and the sinlessness of Jesus, and the red stripes represent the wounds of Jesus: "By His stripes we are healed."

Christmas Pancakes– Make pancakes together to enjoy Christmas morning. Don't forget the fruit. Blueberries, bananas and strawberries are some favorites. Add chocolate chips for an extra special treat.

Give Back-Find a participating shelter or nursing home. Volunteer your time to give back on this special time of year. There is no greater example for your children. Be sure and prepare your children for the things they will see and experience. Take It as a blessing that they are not familiar with these sights and use the opportunity for them to learn just how blessed they are.



Daycare for

FREE

Spread the word! Did you know that if you recommend us to a friend and they attend the daycare that you can receive a credit for free daycare? For more information and questions please speak to someone in the front office.



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ART CLASS



Grant Road Day Care & Cypress Murals are now offering children's Art Classes for Ages 5 to 12yrs.

Ms. Jaime will be teaching the class every **Friday** afternoon from 4:30-5:15.

If your child loves artistic things like painting, drawing and more, they will love this class!

Please see Mr. Cliff or Mr. Jayme for pricing and more information!

GYM / TKD

Every Monday we have Gymnastics for almost all ages. Coach Jeff Martin joins us at the Day Care with Athletic on Wheels! Mini-Meets are held every year to which parents will be invited.

Gymnastics is fantastic for developing gross motor skills as well as getting exercise and letting out extra energy! If you are not yet signed up for Gymnastics you can speak to someone in the office about doing so.

We also have Beginner & Advanced Tae Kwan Do every Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday after school. Mrs. Rudolph teaches these classes and they are held in the blue room at the Daycare. We are proud to say the children now have belts of all colors, including a few Black Belts!!! Each achievement is truly a magnificent rise in self esteem for the kids! We are so proud of how well they are doing and how far they have come in their commitment to the sport! Great job to our black belts! You have worked so hard and been so dedicated.



REMINDERS

- Don't forget to bring a lunch if your children are ages 4 and up.
- Remember all fees are due every Monday each week, unless you pay Monthly.
- Grant Road policy is that everything your child brings must be able to fit inside their cubby. Back packs may be hung in the hallway.
- We check our toys regularly to make sure they are safe and have not been re-called. If you have questions or concerns about your toys at home you can visit www.recalls.gov to check for any recently recalled toys.
- GRANT ROAD DAY-CARE will be **CLOSED** for the Christmas break. **DECEMBER 26th thru DECEMBER 30th.**
- Preschool Parents please don't forget to check for your little ones school work in the yellow file box by the



front door. They have worked very hard and would like to show you how well they have done! If your child is in Mrs. Donna's class please don't forget to empty and return your manila folders.

- Please don't forget lunch boxes, soiled clothes, pillows and blankets over the holiday break. It would be a good idea for them to be taken home and washed!
- We hope you have a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Please be careful if you are traveling on your holiday break. We hope you have a wonderful Christmas holiday and we will see you next year!!!

GRDC News is now advertising!!!
For as little as \$5, \$10 or \$15 an issue.



Issues are put out every 3 months. If you would like to rent an available space for your business please email

Jaime at jjkayna@hotmail.com.

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BIRTHDAYS

December: 3yrs. Jackson Bell, Ashley Duran, Megan Schelenhamer 5yrs. Barbara Mays 7yrs. Trent Hall 10yrs. Taylor Dean 12yrs. Clayton Popp

January: 2yrs. Jayden Haley 5yrs. Elleri Bazan, Savannah Hall, Alana Harris, Anamarie Rubiano 6yrs. Tave Sosa 13yrs. Allen Nguyen

February: 2yrs. Christine Heydrick, Elayna Netterville 3yrs. Jacob Howell 4yrs. Colin Contreras, Charlie Hart, Rosie Leon 5yrs. Brandon Corrillo 8yrs. Collin Hogan 11yrs. Georgia Craig

VALENTINES PARTY



Our Preschool Valentines Party will be on Tuesday, **February 14th** this year. We will have yummy snacks and exchange our valentines. A letter will be sent out closer to the date letting you know how many children are in your child's class. Please remember to only put who the cards are from, this way the children can distribute their valentines themselves. If you would like to help out you can bring cupcakes or cookies. As always parents and grandparents are encouraged to come. We hope to see you there! We will also be selling Candy Grams of homemade candy pops. More information about those will be given in January.

Our 2nd Annual Art Show & Spaghetti Dinner went GREAT!

A huge **THANK YOU** to Jerry & Joan Bearden, Starbucks & The Fields family, The Schumann and Hall Family, Luby's and the Van Jura Family! Everyone who made donations and gave to our Gift give away. Thank you to everyone who came out, we hope you had as much fun as we did. Thank you to all of our AMAZING volunteers: The Triplets, Stephanie Hidalgo, Emily Algermissen, The Craigs, The Yeary/Ullman Family and everyone else who helped. We couldn't have done it with out you. We'll keep everyone updated on our playground equipment progress. We only need a little over one thousand dollars, we are so close!!!

20% Off all Christmas Orders!
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